



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities

DIVISION OF RESEARCH PROGRAMS

SUMMER STIPENDS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I. Eligibility

1. I am an independent scholar. What are my chances of receiving a Summer Stipend?

Your chances are the same as any other applicant's. All applicants must propose a significant project and must also present evidence of their qualifications, including publications, presentations, and other relevant experiences.

2. I am a graduate student. Am I eligible to apply for a Summer Stipend?

No. However, applicants who have satisfied all the requirements for a degree and are awaiting its conferral may apply. Such applicants need a letter from the dean of the conferring school, attesting to the applicant's status as of October 1, 2015. This letter must be received by the Summer Stipends program by October 22, 2015. You may fax the letter to the program at 202-606-8204; alternatively, you may include a PDF version of the signed letter as an attachment to an e-mail message sent to stipends@neh.gov.

3. Does NEH support projects whose results will be written in a language other than English?

Yes. Applicants with projects that will be written in a language other than English must explain how access and dissemination will be affected.

4. May I apply to translate a work into English if other English translations already exist?

Yes. In the proposal narrative, provide a rationale for a new translation.

5. I am involved in a collaborative project. Can collaborators split a Summer Stipend?

No. The NEH Summer Stipends program is designed for individual researchers. Awards may not be divided. If you are seeking funding for more than one participant in a collaborative project, each person seeking funding must submit a separate application specifying the individual contribution. Panelists will be asked to evaluate each application on its own merits. Each application should clearly explain how the work will be divided and the extent to which each collaborator's contribution depends on that of the other(s). Applicants who are seeking funding only for themselves but who are working as part of a collaborative team are also eligible. In this case, too, the application should clearly explain how the work will be divided and the extent to which each collaborator's contribution depends on that of the other(s). Applicants proposing to work together may wish to apply instead or in addition for an NEH [Collaborative Research](#) grant.

6. I plan to complete a draft of my book prior to the start of the award. May I use the award period to respond to the publisher's readers' reports?

Using a Summer Stipend to revise work is fully acceptable under program guidelines. However, work plans must not depend entirely upon factors outside an applicant's control. For instance, Summer Stipends should not be used to respond to pending or anticipated readers' reports.

II. Other Fellowship Opportunities

1. Does NEH offer additional funding opportunities for individual scholars in the humanities?

NEH [Fellowships](#) and the [Public Scholar Program](#) support individual scholars for periods of six to twelve months. NEH Awards for Faculty support individual scholars for periods of two to twelve months. Fellowships and the Public Scholar Program are open to scholars who have completed their formal education, regardless of their institutional affiliation. Awards for Faculty are open only to faculty members at [Hispanic-Serving Institutions](#), [Historically Black Colleges and Universities](#), or [Tribal Colleges and Universities](#). Applicants apply directly to NEH.

2. Does NEH collaborate with other institutions to provide additional funding for individual scholars in the humanities?

NEH collaborates with several organizations to offer support for research:

Library of Congress (LOC) – John W. Kluge Center Fellowships

Projects that draw on the collections of the Library of Congress are eligible for support. Interested applicants should apply directly to [LOC's Kluge Center Fellowships Program](#).

Japan-United States Friendship Commission (JUSFC) – [Fellowships for Advanced Social Science Research on Japan](#)

Subjects may include modern Japanese political economy, international relations and society, and United States-Japan relations. Applicants may consult the [JUSFC website](#) for additional information.

NEH Grants for Fellowship Programs at Independent Research Institutions

Projects to be undertaken at independent centers for advanced study, libraries, and museums in the United States, and research centers overseas, are eligible for support. Individual scholars must apply directly to the institutions themselves. A list of currently funded institutions is available [here](#).

[NEH and National Science Foundation Fellowships Program for Documenting Endangered Languages \(DEL\)](#)

Projects on endangered languages are eligible for support. A full description of the DEL program is available [here](#).

III. Application and References

1. What help is available for preparing the proposal?

Because of the large number of applications, NEH staff members are not able to comment on draft proposals. NEH staff will, however, answer questions about preparing your proposal and about your eligibility. Staff members may be reached at (202) 606-8200 and at stipends@neh.gov.

Applicants are encouraged to review the samples of previously funded applications, as well as the broader list of projects. You can find links to the sample narratives, and to the list of funded projects, on the [program resource page](#).

2. I applied for a grant last year and my proposal was unsuccessful. Will I be at a disadvantage if I reapply?

No. NEH encourages previous applicants to reapply and does not inform panelists that a proposal was unsuccessful in a previous competition. Moreover, NEH employs different panelists from year to year.

3. My project is interdisciplinary. What category should I select from the drop-down menu for “Field of Project” on Form III (the NEH Supplemental Information for Individuals Form)?

NEH supports proposals that cross disciplinary boundaries (as well as proposals that are rooted in a single discipline). On the NEH Supplemental Information for Individuals Form you may select up to three disciplinary fields that characterize your project. If you select more than one, list the primary field first. In selecting referees, you should choose two who can effectively attest to your ability to work in the disciplines that are relevant to your project.

4. My referee is unable to submit a letter online. Is there an alternative?

NEH strongly encourages referees to submit their letters online. If this is not possible, referees may e-mail letters to stipends@neh.gov or fax them to 202-606-8204.

5. How will my application be reviewed?

All applications receive peer review. Scholars in the humanities will read and rate your application, using the evaluation criteria listed in Section V of the application guidelines. NEH staff comments on matters of fact or on significant issues that otherwise would be missing from these reviews, then makes recommendations to the National Council on the Humanities. The National Council meets at various times during the year to advise the NEH chairman on grants. The chairman takes into account the advice provided by the review process and, by law, makes all funding decisions. More details about NEH's review process are available [here](#).

6. Can I see the evaluators' comments after the competition?

Yes. The notification you receive about the decision made on your application will contain instructions for requesting the evaluators' comments. If your application is unsuccessful, the comments may help you revise it for resubmission.

IV. Using Grants.gov

1. How do I know if I have submitted my application successfully?

After you submit your application, you should receive four e-mail messages confirming receipt of your application. To ensure that your application is properly processed, please verify that you have received all four confirmations.

1. Grants.gov Submission Receipt;
2. Grants.gov Submission Validation Receipt;
3. Grants.gov Grantor Agency Retrieval Receipt; and
4. Grants.gov Agency Tracking Number Assignment.

These messages are from Grants.gov and are normally sent within twenty-four hours of the submission; delays can, however, occur when system usage is heavy. Each message includes your application's Grants.gov tracking number and the fourth one also provides your NEH application number, which is different from your Grants.gov tracking number. Keep these messages for your records.

If you do not receive all four messages from Grants.gov, or if any of the messages indicates that the application has been rejected, contact Grants.gov (www.grants.gov) at 1-800-518-GRANTS (4726) or support@grants.gov. Include the Grants.gov tracking number in correspondence regarding the application.

If your application is rejected at NEH for reasons such as its use of invalid file types (any non-PDF format, including .doc and .rtf, is invalid), the fourth message will indicate this. In this case you will also receive a rejection notice directly from NEH.

2. Can I check to see whether my letter writers have submitted their letters?

Yes. You will be notified by e-mail when each of your letters of reference has been received. After you have received the Grants.gov Agency Tracking Number Assignment message, you may check the status of your letters of reference by logging in to [the secure area of NEH's website](#). Enter your NEH application number and your Grants.gov tracking number. You will be able to see the names and e-mail addresses of your letter writers and whether their letters of reference have arrived. If necessary, you may send reminders to your letter writers (including the upload link) from this site. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that their recommenders have received the NEH request to submit their letters and that their letters have been properly submitted.

3. What is the Application for Federal Domestic Assistance - Individual Form, and where do I find it?

The Application for Federal Domestic Assistance – Individual Form is a standard government application form. It is included in the “Mandatory Documents” field of the application package that you download from Grants.gov. To begin filling out the form, click on Application for Federal Domestic Assistance – Individual Form to open it. (In Section IV of the guidelines, “Application and Submission Information,” see “How to Submit Your Application,” specifically the discussion of Form I under STEP 4.)

4. What is a DUNS number? What is a TIN/EIN number? How do I find out my institution's numbers?

DUNS stands for “data universal numbering system.” DUNS numbers are issued by Dun and Bradstreet (D & B) and consist of nine digits. TIN/EIN stands for “Taxpayer Identification Number/Employer Identification Number.” If you have institutional affiliation, you should be able to get these numbers from your sponsored research office.

More information about DUNS numbers is available [here](#).